

Remarks

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors. Support for the amendments may be found in the claims and specification as originally filed. See also, for example, the specification at page 6, first line of the first full paragraph. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendments. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-20 will be pending.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, the Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-13. This election is made without traverse.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for the election of a single disclosed species, the Applicants elect the species of water-swellaable linear polymer obtainable by reacting together: polyethylene glycol (as the polyethylene oxide (a)); decane-1,10-diol (as the difunctional compound (b)); and dicyclohexyl methane-4,4-diisocyanate (as the difunctional isocyanate (c)). The species election is also made without traverse. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 read on the elected species.

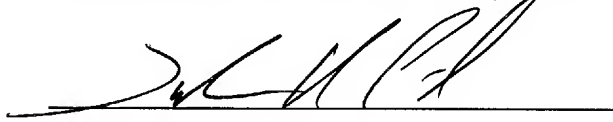
The Applicants appreciate the indication that the Examiner will consider rejoining the non-elected claims should the elected claims be found allowable. All of the claims incorporate the limitations of the broadest elected product claim.

This application is now in condition for examination on the merits. An early and favorable indication of same is kindly requested. Should any questions arise regarding the

application, the Examiner is kindly invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN K. PIKE, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.K. Pike', is written over a horizontal line.

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